

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 25-29 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 20, 22, 23, 25 and 26 are cancelled and claim 21 is amended. No new matter will be incorporated into the present application by entry of this Amendment. If the Office determines that any additional fees are deemed to be necessary with the filing of this Amendment, then the Office is authorized and requested to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 061910.

The present Amendment is being filed with a view toward obtaining the allowance of claims at the earliest possible date. Applicant maintains that the original claims are patentably distinct over the cited art. Therefore, Applicant expressly reserves the right to pursue the original claims and/or other similar claims in further prosecution.

The Examiner indicated that claims 1-19 and 27-29 are allowed. Applicant thanks the Examiner for Allowance of these claims.

The Examiner also indicated that claim 21 is objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 21 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 20, thereby putting this claim in condition for allowance.

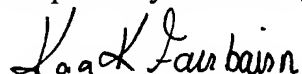
The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,664,515 to Hattori et al. Claim 20 has been canceled, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

The Examiner also rejected claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hattori '515. Claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 have been canceled, thereby rendering the Examiner's rejection moot.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that all pending claims of application are in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if the Examiner believes it would be useful to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,



Kara K. Fairbairn
Registration No. 49,079
Customer No. 22859
Fredrikson & Byron, P.A.
4000 Pillsbury Center
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-1425
Telephone: (612) 492-7000
Facsimile: (612) 349-7077

Please grant any extension of time necessary for entry; charge any fee due to Deposit Account No. 06-1910.

#3029815\1